

**Analgesia and Anesthesia in Obstetrics.** SECOND EDITION. BY J. P. GREENHILL, M.D., Professor of Gynecology, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine, Chicago. Cloth. \$5.25. Pp. 92, with 19 illustrations. Publication No. 489 American Lecture Series. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1962.

The author is a well-known practicing gynecologist and obstetrician. This book contains an up-to-date summary of the agents and techniques utilized for analgesia and/or anesthesia in obstetrics. The subject material is presented in a clear, concise, and easy-to-understand style. The book is useful for obstetricians, particularly those to whom the services of an anesthesiologist are not available. This monograph has little value to anesthesiologists since it contains no information not present in standard anesthesiology textbooks. It is, however, a worthwhile addition to every hospital library and should be required reading for every resident in obstetrics and gynecology.

P. C. LUND, M.D.

**Practical Electroencephalography for the Anesthesiologist.** BY VERNE L. BRECHNER, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery (Anesthesiology), RICHARD D. WALTER, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine (Neurology), AND JOHN B. DILLON, M.D., Professor of Surgery (Anesthesiology), University of California Medical Center, Los Angeles. Cloth. \$6.50. Pp. 107, with many figures depicting EEG tracings, and tables. Publication No. 469 American Lecture Series. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1962.

This concise monograph comprehensively treats the subject described by its title. Only basic facts of historical importance and brief reviews of past and present concepts of the origin and regulation of electrocortical activity are cited. The greater part of the book is devoted to descriptions and illustrations of normal and abnormal bipolar electroencephalographic tracings, as recorded by equipment familiar to anesthesiologists.

The effects of physiological variables—age,

sleep-wakefulness and metabolic alterations—on the electroencephalogram are summarized in seven pages. The EEG changes that accompany the use of anesthetic agents and combinations of anesthetics in common use are compared with the changes described by Courtin during ether anesthesia and integrated with such familiar clinical signs as pupillary, oculomotor, abdominal and intercostal-muscular signs, and response to painful stimuli.

The authors warn against reliance on the electroencephalogram to detect early or insidious hypoxia, and especially, hypercarbia. The greater importance of observing the patient constantly and evaluating conventional clinical signs in most operative procedures is emphasized. The EEG may be especially helpful, however, when carotid artery compression is required (such as during mitral valvulotomy), and during other operations which may, by design or misadventure, interrupt or impair circulation to the brain.

Separate chapters are devoted to electroencephalography during extracorporeal circulation and during hypothermia. Of special interest is the discussion of electroencephalography during cardiac arrest, as a monitor during manual systole, and as a prognostic guide for management after this catastrophe. Case summaries with illustrative EEG tracings add interest and clarity to many portions of the book.

The advantages of continuous or intermittent *recording* of electroencephalograms are stressed, in preference to visual observations alone on an oscilloscope.

Every anesthesiologist would find this book, which can be leisurely read in a couple of hours, extremely rewarding. Clear print of ample size on a fine grade of paper and excellent reproduction of figures add to the reader's pleasure. The three-page index is hardly necessary, considering the Table of Contents. Besides its value to the anesthesiologist who already applies electroencephalography in his practice, this monograph is sufficient to aid one unfamiliar with the technique in acquiring skill and judgment necessary to employ the electroencephalogram intelligently as a monitor.

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